General tips for analysis of a novel

**Purpose**

What did the person who wrote this want to achieve?

* Explore the themes of….
* Interest/ amuse/entertain/ shock etc the audience
* Encourage the audience to…

**Themes/ ideas/messages**

What do I know after reading the text?

Not just a list of headings, but what you understand about the theme at the end of the text.

**How do I know this?**

What techniques/methods does the writer use to make me understand the themes and/or achieve their purpose?

* Structural choices (chapters, chronology, flashbacks, journals, letters, foreshadowing, framing devices)
* Narrative voice (point of view, 1st person, 3rd person, fallible/all-knowing narrator, what this voice tells us)
* Language techniques (tone, style, colloquial language, imagery)
* Conflict (internal, external, with individuals, society, nature)
* Characters (actions, dialogue, descriptions, names, associations, thoughts and feelings, responses, back-story)
* Settings (social, geographic, physical, temporal)
* Events... the plot. What actually happens.